

*Application No. 09/839342*  
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*Amendment*  
*Attorney Docket No. E14.2B-9321-US01*

**Amendments To The Claims:**

21. (Currently Amended) A multi-step method for cleaning hard surfaces, [except dishware,] except in a laundry or dishwashing sequence, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) flushing said hard surface with a pre-rinse solution said pre-rinse solution comprising water and a partially neutralized anionic polymer; and
- b) further comprising at least one other step which is either flushing said hard surface with at least one other rinse solution different than said pre-rinse solution, said rinse solution being either acidic, caustic or neutral, or cleaning said hard surface with a main wash solution different than said pre-rinse solution, or [[both]] or a combination thereof.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein said partially neutralized anionic polymer is selected from polyacrylates, polymethacrylates, polysulfonates, polyphosphates, polyphosphonates, phosphino polycarboxylates, polyaspartates, polycarboxylated alcohol alkoxylates, copolymers thereof, and mixtures thereof[;].

23. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein said main wash solution is an enzymatic wash solution, a caustic wash solution, an acidic wash solution or a neutral wash solution.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 21 wherein said pre-rinse solution comprises from about 25 to about 10000 ppm of said partially neutralized anionic polymer.

25. (Original) The method of Claim 21 wherein said pH of said pre-rinse solution is about 4 to about 11.

26. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein said pre-rinse solution removes gross soils.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26 wherein said gross soil comprises whey, whey fractions, milk, milk fractions, or milk products.